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 ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DOEE-00	EB-01
	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SS-00	STR-01
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00

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 FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1825
 INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
 JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
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 C O N F I D E N T I A L S E C T I O N 01 OF 02 ACCRA 006162

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: MARR, PREL, PHUM, MOPS, FR, RW, GH
 SUBJECT: RWANDA: GHANA'S CONCERN ABOUT DELAYS IN
 EQUIPMENT FOR UNAMIR CONTINGENT

REFS: (A) ACCRA 5657
 (B) STATE 174013

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY: CHARGE MET ON JULY 20 WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE IDRISU WHO WANTED TO KNOW THE STATUS OF U.S. EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT TO GHANA'S UNAMIR CONTINGENT IN RWANDA. HE AND HIS MILITARY ADVISORS WERE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS AND THE DEPARTURE OF FRENCH FORCES WHICH COULD BE COMPLETE BY THE END OF AUGUST. GHANA WAS BEING ASKED DAILY BY THE UN TO CONTRIBUTE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FOR RWANDA, AND THIS DESPITE LACK OF ACTION TO COMPLETELY EQUIP THE FORCES ALREADY ON THE GROUND. GHANA WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE SITUATION, IDRISU AND HIS MILITARY ADVISORS SAID, AND WOULD NOT SEND ANOTHER SOLDIER WITHOUT THE FULL UN COMPLEMENT OF EQUIPMENT BEING AVAILABLE. END SUMMARY.

3. AT THE REQUEST OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE ALHAJI IDRISU, CHARGE MET WITH HIM JULY 20 TO DISCUSS DELAYS IN UN PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT FOR GHANA'S UNAMIR CONTINGENT. ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE ARMED FORCES COMMANDER, AIR MARSHAL A.H.K. DUMASHIE, ARMED

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FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER F.K. AGYEMFRA, AND
EMBASSY OFFICER.

4. THE MINISTER WASTED NO TIME IN COMING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING; HIS DESIRE FOR THE STATUS ON U.S. EFFORTS TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR GHANA'S UNAMIR CONTINGENT. CHARGE ADVISED THAT THE UN IS NOW IN PROCESS OF REQUESTING NEEDED GHANA/UNAMIR EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. STORES INCLUDING BINOCULARS, MINE DETECTORS, WATER PURIFICATION, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. WHILE THE PROCESS WAS CUMBERSOME, WE WERE WORKING TO CUT THROUGH BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLES AND GENERALLY SPEED UP PROCEDURES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WERE UNCERTAIN WHAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FROM U.S. DEPOTS IN TERMS OF LARGER AND MORE EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT.

5. IDRISU SAID THAT IN ANTICIPATION OF BRINGING ITS UNAMIR BATTALION TO FULL STRENGTH, GHANA HAD EARLIER ASSEMBLED 285 PERSONNEL FROM VARIOUS MILITARY UNITS AROUND THE COUNTRY. HOWEVER, SO MUCH TIME HAD NOW PASSED WITHOUT ANY UN ACTION THAT THESE PERSONNEL, IN A HOLDING CAMP NEAR ACCRA, HAD BEEN SENT BACK TO THEIR UNITS. THE MINISTER NOTED THAT GHANA WAS FIRST URGED TO QUICKLY CONTRIBUTE FORCES TO UNAMIR AND WAS NOW BEING

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TOLD ONLY ABOUT A LONG BUREAUCRATIC UN PROCESS. IDDRISU THOUGHT THE DISPATCH OF FORCES SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PUSHED AHEAD OF THE AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT. AT THE MOMENT, ALL BASIC EQUIPMENT FOR GHANA'S UNAMIR CONTINGENT WAS STILL LACKING, INCLUDING RIFLES, TRANSPORT, AND OTHER GEAR FOR THE TROOPS. DESPITE THIS FACT, GHANA WAS BEING ASKED DAILY TO CONTRIBUTE

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ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FOR RWANDA. THE UN RECENTLY ASKED FOR 30 OR 40 GHANAIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO BE UN OBSERVERS IN RWANDA, AND ALSO WANTED GHANA TO PROVIDE A COLONEL AND SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER FOR A PLANNED UN OPS ELEMENT IN KIGALI. THIS DESPITE LACK OF ACTION TO EQUIP THE FORCES ALREADY ON THE GROUND THERE.

6. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE GHANAIAN CONTINGENT'S USE OF U.S.-PROVIDED APC'S, IDDRISU SAID THAT THE APC'S WERE BEING WORKED ON AT ENTEBBE, AND TRAINING ON THEM HAD BEGUN, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE STILL QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW THE APC'S WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO KIGALI. ARMED FORCES COMMANDER DUMASHIE INTERJECTED THAT HE WAS VERY UNHAPPY WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION. HE UNDERLINED THAT NOT ONE ADDITIONAL GHANAIAN SOLDIER WOULD BE SENT TO RWANDA WITHOUT THE FULL UN COMPLEMENT OF EQUIPMENT BEING AVAILABLE FOR GHANA'S UNAMIR CONTINGENT.

7. NOTING THAT FRANCE PLANS TO BEGIN ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM RWANDA JULY 31 AND COMPLETE IT BY AUGUST 31, THE DEFENSE MINISTER SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE FRANCE WOULD BE

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EQUIPMENT FOR UNAMIR CONTINGENT

ABLE TO DISARM ALL THE FORMER INTERIM GOVERNMENT FORCES
IN ITS ZONE. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ZAIRE MIGHT
SEPARATELY PROVIDE MILITARY REFUGE AND SUPPORT TO THE
HUTU MILITARY WHO HAVE FLED ACROSS THE BORDER TO ZAIRE.
IDDRISU SAID THERE IS A DANGER OF A REAL GUERRILLA WAR

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BEGINNING IN RWANDA ONCE THE FRENCH ARE GONE. FURTHERMORE, WHEN FRANCE LEAVES, IF HUTUS BECOME AWARE UNAMIR FORCES ARE WITHOUT EQUIPMENT, THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS "WITHIN DAYS." HE NOTED THERE MAY EVEN BE REPRISALS AGAINST UNAMIR FORCES OR UNAMIR TROOPS MAY BE OVERRUN IF THEY MOVE INTO THE FORMER FRENCH ZONE. IDDRISU WONDERED WHAT THE FRENCH PLAN TO DO WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS THEY DECIDE TO LEAVE BEHIND, AND WITH THOSE WEAPONS CONFISCATED FROM THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT DURING THE FRENCH OPERATION. CHARGE SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE FRANCE WOULD TURN SOME EQUIPMENT OVER TO UNAMIR, PERHAPS TO THE SENEGALESE.

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8. ARMED FORCES COMMANDER DUMASHIE ASKED IF THERE WAS SOME SORT OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH THE U.S. AND GHANA COULD SIGN TO SIMPLY GET THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT INTO RWANDA MORE QUICKLY. HE REPEATED THAT HE WAS "NOT HAPPY AT ALL" WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION IN UNAMIR, AND REMARKED HE HAD NOW LOST ONE OFFICER FROM THE LAST

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CONTINGENT OF TROOPS SENT THERE IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. HE SAID THE SOLDIER WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN ALIVE HAD HE NOT GONE TO RWANDA. DUMASHIE ADDED THAT PERHAPS GHANA SHOULD HAVE AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL BY FRANCE TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE FRENCH HUMANITARIAN OPERATION. GHANA HAD WANTED TO REMAIN UNDER THE UNAMIR UMBRELLA AT THE TIME, BUT DUMASHIE WONDERED IF HE HAD MADE THE WRONG DECISION, SINCE OTHERWISE GHANA MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED SOME EQUIPMENT FROM THE FRENCH. ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF AGYEMFRA NOTED THAT HAVING BEEN ASSURED THAT GHANA'S CONTINGENT WAS BEING "ADOPTED" BY THE U.S., GHANA HAD NOT THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO APPROACH ANY OTHER COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE WITH EQUIPMENT. CHARGE PROMISED TO CONVEY GHANA'S CONCERNS TO WASHINGTON, AND SAID THE MISSION WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH TO KEEP GHANA ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS ON RWANDA, AND WITH REGARD TO PROVISION OF U.S. EQUIPMENT FOR UNAMIR.

7. COMMENT: TODAY'S MEETING WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE IDDRISU WAS IN MANY WAYS A REPEAT OF OUR JULY 6 SESSION (REF A). THE DIFFERENCE IS THE IMMINENT AND LOUDLY PROCLAIMED DEPARTURE OF THE FRENCH FROM RWANDA, A DEVELOPMENT THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH GHANA'S MILITARY PLANNERS VIEW WITH INCREASING CONCERN. THE MINISTER'S

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MESSAGE IS CLEAR; NOT ANOTHER SOLDIER UNTIL ALL THE
NECESSARY MATERIEL IS IN PLACE. WE HAVE, OF COURSE,
PREVIOUSLY SEEN A HESITANT MILITARY OVERRULED BY THE
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP DETERMINED TO HAVE A GHANAIAN
PRESENCE IN RWANDA. IT MAY NOT BE THE SAME THE NEXT
AROUND, HOWEVER.

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8. BUJUMBURA - MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LEDESMA

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